

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 TRSE-00 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2066

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PASS FAA WASHDC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN CG EAIR

SUBJECT: FAA CONTRACT TERMINATION

REF: KINSHASA 2997

1. FAA TEAM CHIEF DAN MOORE APRIL 10 BROUGHT LETTER (REFTEL) TERMINATING CONTRACT TO EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITS RECEIPT. HE TOLD ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO WARNING OTHER THAN FACT THAT HIS ZAIROIS DEPUTY HAD BEEN STRUTTING MORE THAN USUAL YESTERDAY.

2. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT COMBINATION FOLLOWING FACTORS LED TO DECISION WHICH WE WOULD GUESS HAS PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL. FIRST, THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF UNDERSTANDABLE IF REGRETTABLE ZAIROIS RESENTMENT OF FACT THAT WHITE AMERICAN WAS SERVING AS RVA DIRECTOR GENERAL. SECOND, MOORE HAS BEEN FORTHRIGHT IN POINTING OUT TO ZAIROIS EXTRAVAGANCE AND WASTE INVOLVED IN \$370 MILLION AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. UNQUESTIONABLY HIS CRITICISM HAS ENCOURAGED INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM CONTRACT FULFILLMENT OR BE DAMAGED BY CONTRACT RENEGOTIATION TO MANEUVER TO GET RID OF MOORE AND TEAM. THIRD, ZAIRE IS

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SHORT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MINISTER OF FINANCE UNDOUBTEDLY

SEES OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE ALMOST MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.
FOURTH, FRENCH TECHNICIANS AND UNDP TECHNICIANS ARE
WAITING IN THE WINGS AND WHILE WE DOUBT THEY CAN DO AS
WELL, ZAIROIS PROBABLY PROCEEDING ON DIFFERENT PERCEPTION
FORTIFIED BY FACT THAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS WILL BE LESS
AND MANAGERIAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE IN HANDS GOZ.

3. MOORE AND I ARE AGREED THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES WE
SHOULD ACCEPT DECISION AND PLAN TO HAVE TEAM OUT OF HERE
PROMPTLY. MY ONLY RESERVATION TO THIS IS THAT I WILL
TRY TO CONFIRM THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU KNEW OF AND APPROVES
OF MINISTER' ACTIONS. OTHER SMALL PROBLEM, BUT ONE WE
ASSUME WE CAN RESOLVE, IS THAT DOLLAR PAYMENT IN AMOUNT
\$480,000 FOR SIX MONTHS OF CONTRACT IN 1975 IS STILL DUE,
OR LESSER AMOUNT FOR FIVE MONTHS.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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